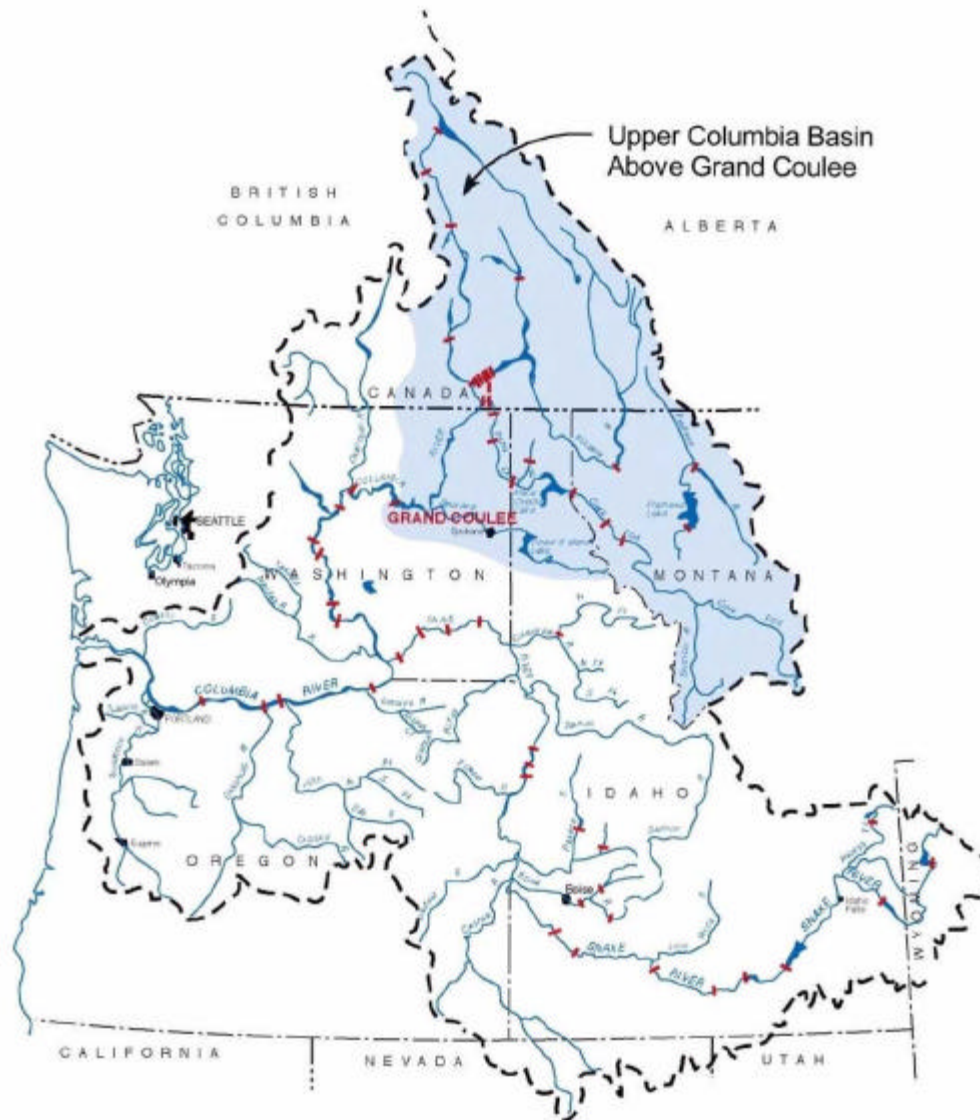


Columbia/Snake River Mainstem TMDL

Columbia/Snake TMDL Workshops
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
March 25 and 26, 2002
Vancouver, Washington
Toppenish, Washington



Columbia River Basin



Columbia River

- 4th largest river in U.S.
- 18th largest river in the world
- Includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia, Nevada, and Wyoming
- Historical, cultural, and spiritual importance to Indian people
- 150 years of development



Major Issues

- ESA and CWA 303(d) listings
- Complex players and processes
- Continued disagreement on direction
- Funding is a challenge
- CWA/ESA integration challenge
- Transboundary issues



Major Players

- Federal Action Agencies
 - ▣ BPA, Corps, Bureau of Reclamation
- Federal Regulatory Agencies
 - ▣ NMFS < USFWS < EPA
- Other: NRCS, Forest Service, BLM, BIA, FERC
- Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana
- 13 Tribes
- NPPC, Industry, PUDs, Alaska, Canada



TMDLs under this effort

- **Columbia/Snake River Mainstem Temperature TMDL**
- **Lower Columbia River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL**
- **Lake Roosevelt/Mid Columbia/Snake River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL**



Other Related Activities

- **Endangered Species Act**
- **2000 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion**
 - **Water Quality Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives**
 - **Appendix B called for development of a Water Quality Plan**



Clean Water Act Requires . . .

As enacted in 1972, section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires States to:

- Identify waters not meeting State water quality standards – 303(d) list
- Set priorities for TMDL development
- Develop a TMDL for each pollutant for each listed water

EPA to approve or disapprove State submissions, and if disapproved, to act in lieu of State



What is a TMDL?

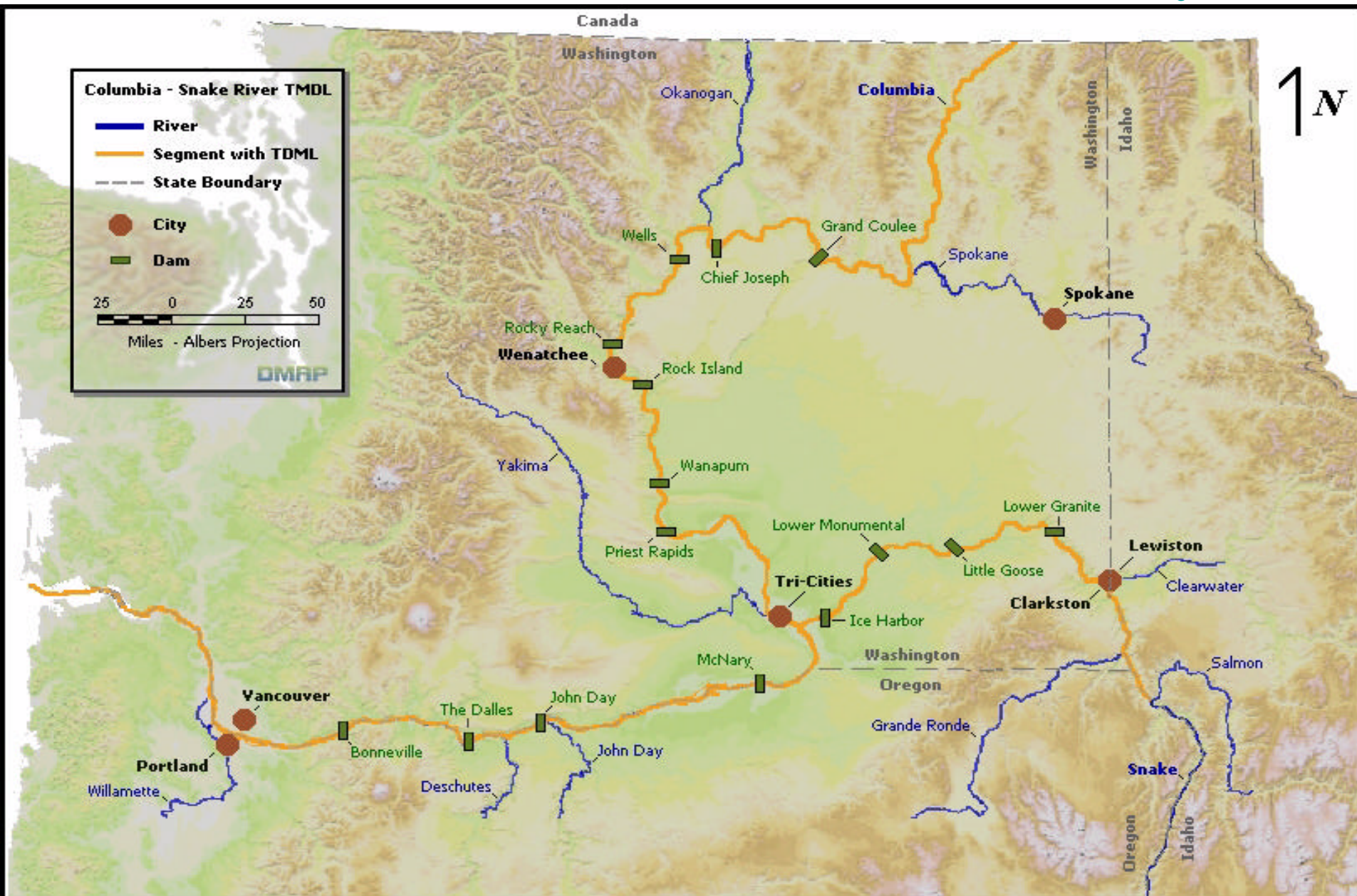
- **The amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards.**
- **The sum of allowable loads from point and nonpoint sources, considering seasonal variation and a margin of safety.**
- **Determines sources of pollutants causing or contributing to impairment.**
- **Allocates responsibility for reductions needed to achieve water quality standards.**



Geographic Scope

- **Columbia River from the Canadian border (RM 745.0) to the Pacific Ocean.**
- **Snake River from it's confluence with the Salmon River (RM 188) to it's confluence with the Columbia River (Columbia RM 324.3).**

Columbia Mainstem TMDL Boundary



What is the technical process?

- **Define the numerical targets for the TMDL.**
- **Characterize existing conditions.**
- **Identify sources and evaluate linkages between sources and temperature/dissolved gas response of the river.**
- **Quantify loading capacity.**
- **Allocate loads.**



State and Tribal Agencies with a CWA role in the Project Area

○ States

- ❑ **Idaho Department of Environmental Quality**
- ❑ **Oregon Department of Environmental Quality**
- ❑ **Washington Department of Ecology**

Tribes

- ❑ **Colville Confederated Tribes (EPA promulgated standards)**
- ❑ **Spokane Tribe of Indians (tribal approved standards)**
- ❑ **Other Columbia Basin Tribes - federal trust responsibility**



Columbia/Snake River 303(d) Listings for Temperature

- **Columbia River RM 0 to RM 309.3 from the Pacific Ocean along the Washington/Oregon border is currently listed as water quality impaired for temperature on both the Washington and Oregon 303(d) Lists.**
- **Snake River from it's confluence with the Salmon River to it's confluence with the Columbia River is listed as water-quality impaired for temperature on the Washington, Idaho and/or Oregon 303(d) Lists.**

Columbia/Snake River 303(d) Listings for Temperature (cont)

- **The Columbia River RM 309.3 to RM 745.0 from Chief Joseph Dam to the Canadian Border is listed as water-quality impaired for temperature by the State of Washington.**
- **In Washington, 29 segments of the Snake and Columbia Rivers are on the 303(d) list**

Columbia/Snake River 303(d) Listings for Dissolved Gas

- **Columbia River RM 0 to RM 309.3 from the Pacific Ocean along the Washington/Oregon border is currently listed as water quality impaired for dissolved gas on both the Washington and Oregon 303(d) Lists.**
- **Snake River in Oregon and is listed as water-quality impaired for dissolved gas on both the Washington and/or Oregon 303(d) Lists.**

Columbia/Snake River 303(d) Listings for Dissolved Gas (cont.)

- **The Columbia River from the confluence with the Snake to the Canadian Border is listed as water-quality impaired for dissolved gas by the State of Washington.**

Roles of Key Players

- Oregon and Washington developing dissolved gas TMDL for Lower Columbia - 2/2002**
- Washington developing dissolved gas TMDL for Mid-Columbia and Lower Snake TMDL - 12/2002**
- EPA is taking technical lead on temperature TMDL - expected to be completed 12/2002**
- EPA developing dissolved gas TMDL for portions within tribal waters**
- EPA in lead to work with tribes**



Key Actions

- Oregon and Washington developing and issuing dissolved gas TMDL for Lower Columbia with EPA approval/disapproval - Spring 2002
- Washington developing and issuing TDG TMDL for Lower Snake with EPA approval/disapproval - 12/2002
- EPA taking technical lead on temperature TMDL and issuing temperature TMDL for Oregon and Washington waters 12/2002
- Idaho issuing temperature TMDL and EPA approval/disapproval - 12/2002



Key Actions

- Washington and EPA developing dissolved gas TMDL for Mid-Columbia and Lake Roosevelt. EPA issuing for tribal waters. Washington issuing for state waters and EPA approval/disapproval - 12/2002
- EPA responsible for tribal consultation and coordination



Consultation and Coordination with Columbia Basin Tribes

- **July 2001 Letter to Tribal Chairs committing to tribal consultation and coordination process and providing an update on process**
- **Grant to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to develop and implement tribal consultation and coordination**
 - ❑ **September Meeting/CRITFC**
 - ❑ **Mid/Upper Columbia meeting - 2002**
 - ❑ **Other meetings**
- **February 2002 letter to Tribal Chairs notifying them of the opportunity to consult**



Lake Roosevelt TDG TMDL

- **"Tribal waters" require EPA to develop this effort**
- **Build upon temperature modeling efforts**
- **Washington Ecology committed to coordinate with the Tribes**
- **Spokane and Colville are key - held discussions in November 2001, and January 2002**
- **Met with Bureau at Grand Coulee - November 5/6, 2001**
- **Coordinate with Transboundary Gas Group**



Coordination Efforts

- **EPA/State/Tribal Team meeting on a monthly basis to address technical, policy and outreach issues**
- **Tribal staff participation is key to TMDL development**
- **Western Governors' Association has helped facilitate interstate coordination.**



Outreach Efforts

- **Pre-decisional informational meetings are planned to share information as TMDLs are developed**
- **July Workshops (Spokane, WA and Portland, OR)**
- **October Workshops (Lewiston, ID and Pasco, WA)**
- **March 18-22 - Public hearings Lower Columbia TDG TMDL**
- **March 25 - Vancouver, WA**
- **March 26 - Toppenish, WA**
- **May 1 - Draft TMDL issued by EPA and Idaho**
- **May-July - 90 day comment period/formal public hearings**
- **August-October - Respond to comments**



For more information

- **Region 10 Home Page**
www.epa.gov/r10earth/index.htm
- **Columbia/Snake Rivers TMDL Web Page**
www.epa.gov/r10earth/columbiainstemtmdl.htm
- **Office of Water TMDL Home Page**
www.epa.gov/OWOW/tmdl/index.html

